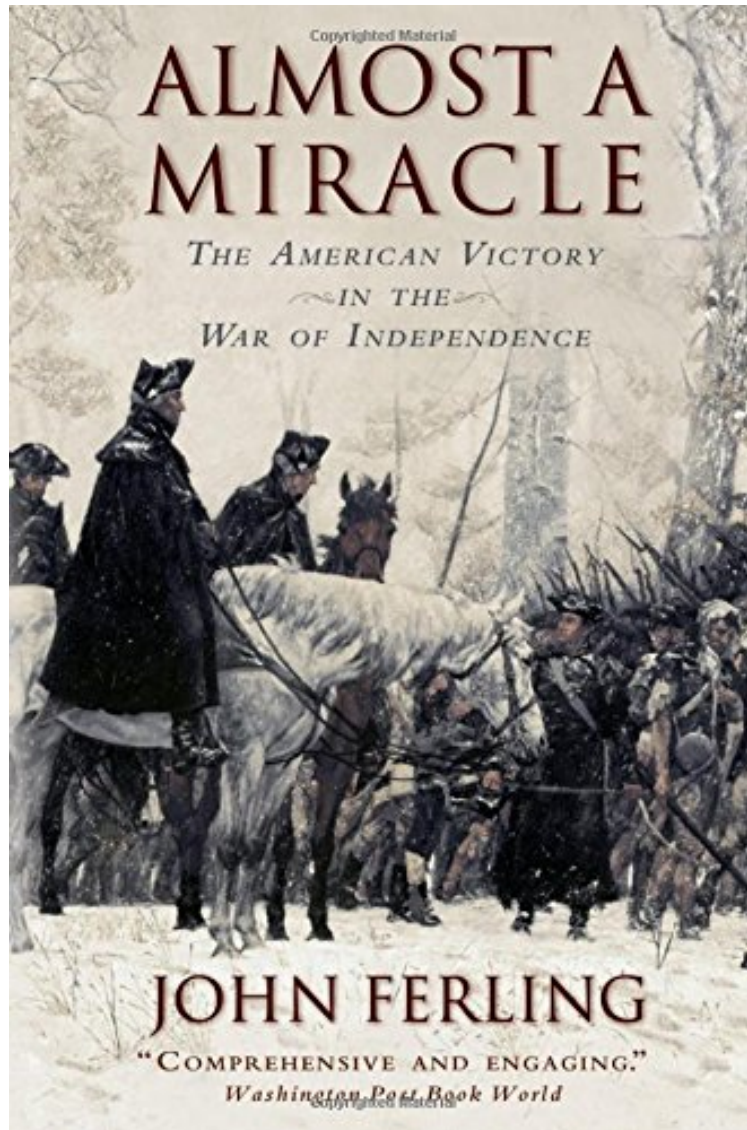


(Free download) Almost A Miracle: The American Victory in the War of Independence

Almost A Miracle: The American Victory in the War of Independence

John Ferling

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John Ferling : Almost A Miracle: The American Victory in the War of Independence before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Almost A Miracle: The American Victory in the War of Independence:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. 'Condensed' military history of the American Revolution. By CrazyOkieYears ago I read Shelby Foote's fantastic, comprehensive trilogy on the Civil War. An extraordinarily

detailed, exhaustive account of the Civil War, it was just too exhaustive in some respects. It was not easy to read and at times it was just plain dull. I'm a military buff, though, so I enjoyed reading it for the descriptions of the battles and the personalities of the various military personnel. "Almost a Miracle" is in the same vein but covers not the Civil War but the American Revolution and focuses mostly - but not entirely - on the military aspects of the war. Unlike Foote's effort, "Almost a Miracle" is never dull and it really helps you understand the various battles and the armies that fought them. I was born and raised in this country, but "Almost a Miracle" taught me a lot that I didn't know about the American Revolution. I learned a lot about Washington, Gates, Lee, and Cornwallis - among many others - that I didn't previously know. Thanks to this book I have a far better appreciation of the war in the southern states, battles that have been virtually ignored in history classes that were too focused on Trenton and Yorktown. I had never heard of General Greene before I read this book and what a shame that was. I agree that the author is far too kind to Gates, who really was not the general responsible for the victory at Saratoga. But I do appreciate that while he shows Washington's glaring errors in strategy and tactics he nevertheless concludes that Washington was indeed the right man at the right time. Highly recommended. This should be mandatory reading in history classes!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very good, but dense. By Chris Randle I've read a few of Ferling's books and they are generally very good. This is another good one, but it's dense and almost like a textbook with its detail. Certainly one of the best books out there if you want to know all there is to know about the American Revolution. Very good and well written, but not a light read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Superior review of politics, the change from European Battle Tactics to a hit and run guerilla war. Many British victories Pyrrh By numa r laiche Validates facts that many of us as military students suspected and or knew. GB was not as ready, willing nor able to fight a war with major supply line problems. GB treasury hurting from French war on NA Continent. Combat experience of a great many Colonial leaders superior to British. Manpower in Colonies exceeded GB in numbers and capable of fighting on NA terrain etc. GB hired Mercenaries to fill the gaps. Mercenaries are rarely reliable. Gives insight into Parliaments divisions in waging this far off war.

In this gripping chronicle of America's struggle for independence, award-winning historian John Ferling transports readers to the grim realities of that war, capturing an eight-year conflict filled with heroism, suffering, cowardice, betrayal, and fierce dedication. As Ferling demonstrates, it was a war that America came much closer to losing than is now usually remembered. General George Washington put it best when he said that the American victory was "little short of a standing miracle." *Almost a Miracle* offers an illuminating portrait of America's triumph, offering vivid descriptions of all the major engagements, from the first shots fired on Lexington Green to the surrender of General Cornwallis at Yorktown, revealing how these battles often hinged on intangibles such as leadership under fire, heroism, good fortune, blunders, tenacity, and surprise. Ferling paints sharp-eyed portraits of the key figures in the war, including General Washington and other American officers and civilian leaders. Some do not always measure up to their iconic reputations, including Washington himself. The book also examines the many faceless men who soldiered, often for years on end, braving untold dangers and enduring abounding miseries. The author explains why they served and sacrificed, and sees them as the forgotten heroes who won American independence.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Ferling, professor emeritus at the University of West Georgia, caps his distinguished career as a scholar and popular writer on the colonial/revolutionary period with arguably the best, and certainly one of the most stimulating, single-volume histories of the American Revolution. Exhaustively researched and clearly written, it stresses the contingent aspects of a war where victory depended on making the fewest mistakes. Despite chances to end the war in battle, by negotiation or by international conference, Britain failed for lack of manpower, the decision to wage limited war and an ineffective central government and above all, comprehensive underestimation of American military effectiveness and political resolve. America's cause, ironically, nearly foundered on reluctance to support a standing army, and a government that wasn't strong enough to plan and execute a concerted war effort. That popular enthusiasm never broke owed much to a stable French alliance and to George Washington, who was a good diplomat, a better politician and an excellent judge of character. Steadily growing into the responsibilities of commander in chief, he achieved legitimate iconic status by the war's end. Ultimately, Ferling demonstrates that independence was won through the endurance of the American people and their soldiers, who held on for that last vital quarter of an hour. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist Ferling, a history professor, is the author of nine books on the American Revolution and early American wars. In his new book, he posits that the War of Independence was so vast that hardly anyone living east of the Appalachian Mountains was untouched. Many civilians were killed, including Indians and the residents of some coastal towns, both of whom were deliberately targeted, and countless others fell victim to diseases that soldiers on both sides spread unwittingly. He points out that his book seeks to explain why America won the war and why the British, despite their many advantages, lost it. One of the book's many well-developed themes is that the war came much closer to ending short of a great American victory than many now realize. It also looks at how wars were waged in the eighteenth century and explores how soldiers and civilians experienced the war. Ferling admits that he came to

see both more flaws and greater virtues in Washington's leadership, that he gained a deeper appreciation of General Nathanael Greene, and that he saw General Charles Lee as a tragic figure. George CohenCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Comprehensive and engaging...Grand stuff and sweeping themes...Ferling is particularly strong in recreating the relentless misery of the war in Georgia and the Carolinas, an essential theater that is overlooked in many popular recountings."--Washington Post Book World "In his richly detailed battle-by-battle account of the war, Ferling succeeds where other military histories fail by providing helpful background for those who don't know their flanks from their feints. He also brings the military leaders to life, exploring their backgrounds, their dispositions, their willingness to take risks."--Christian Science Monitor "Monographs on the military history of the American Revolution are beyond count, but Ferling (emer., Univ. of West Georgia) has put together new and old materials in a compelling way...Upon finishing the book, readers will understand how true the title is. George Washington's flaws, the intricacies of congressional relations with the army and navy, the tactics of guerilla warfare, and the horrors of the battlefield--all are presented in a readable and academically sound manner. The vignette and brushstroke fit together flawlessly. General readers and specialists alike will applaud this work. Highly recommended."--CHOICE "John Ferling is a national resource, and *Almost a Miracle* is a splendid combination of subject with a superb historian writing at the peak of his powers. Ferling's brilliant book makes an important contribution to the scholarship of the Revolution while telling a gripping story that every American must know."--Michael Beschloss, author of *Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America, 1789-1989* "Highly recommended. This very thoughtful book is informed by many years of teaching on the subject. Its judgments are balanced, mature, and enlightening."--David Hackett Fischer, author of *Washington's Crossing* "No event in our nation's history is more important than the Revolution, and no historian has grasped this epic drama better than John Ferling. This fast paced narrative, anchored in exhaustive research reminds us that the American victory was never certain. A fragile, fractious coalition of thirteen weak states could easily have succumbed to Britain's might had it not been for the persistent courage and determination of the soldiers and sailors who fought in the patriot cause. Ferling is right our triumph was 'almost a miracle.'"-- William Fowler, Northeastern University and former Director of the Massachusetts Historical Society